TOMB OF DRACULA

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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THE TOMB OF DRACULA

LORD OF VAMPIRES!

COMICDOM'S NUMBER 1 FEAR MAGAZINE

GAZE INTO THE *EYES* OF DRACULA, HUMAN FOOL--

--AND *SEE* YOUR **DEATH!**

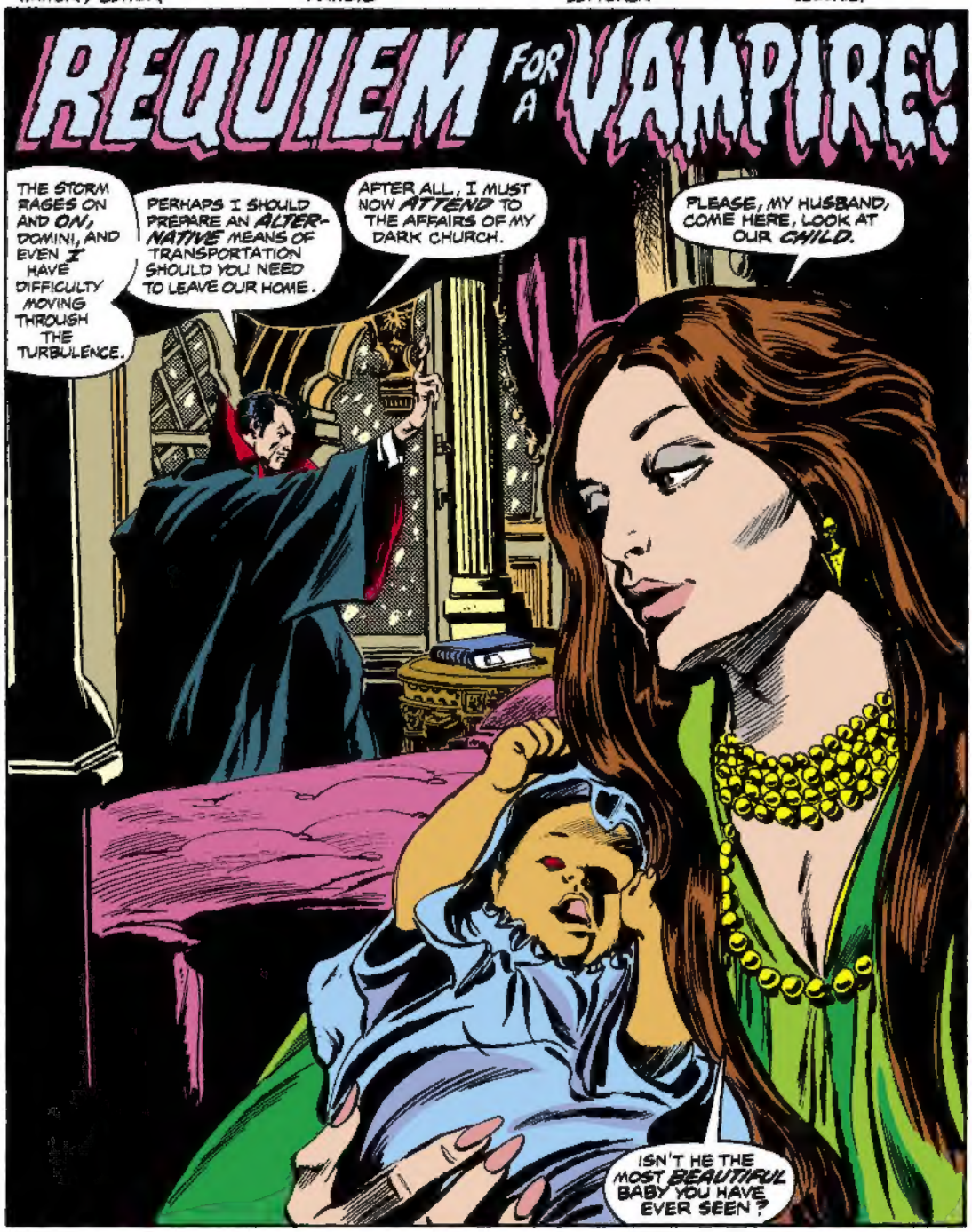
POSSIBLY THE **GREATEST** DRACULA STORY EVER!

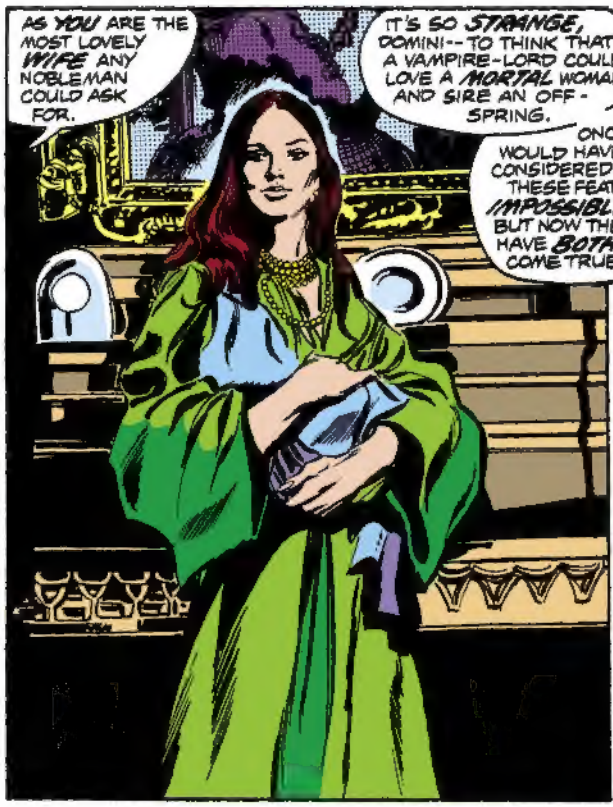
REQUIEM FOR A VAMPIRE!

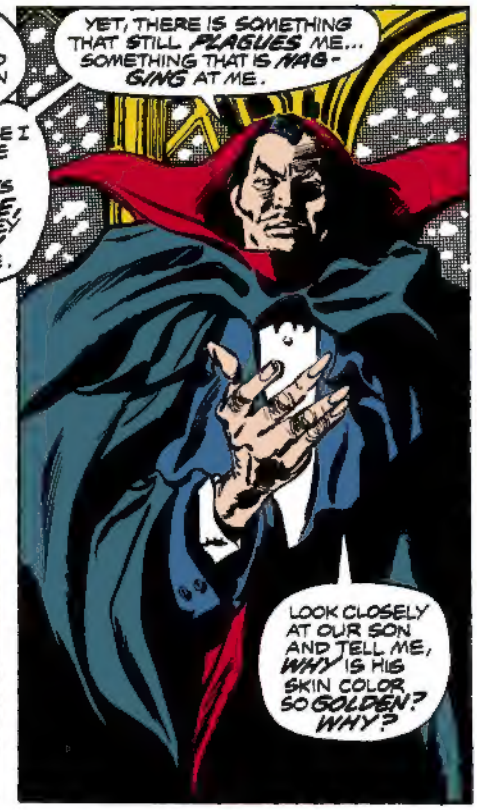
Stan Lee PRESENTS: TOMB OF DRACULA!

Marv Wolfman WRITER / EDITOR * Gene Colan & Tom Palmer ARTISTS * John Costanza LETTERER * Michele Wolfman COLORIST

REQUIEM FOR A VAMPIRE!



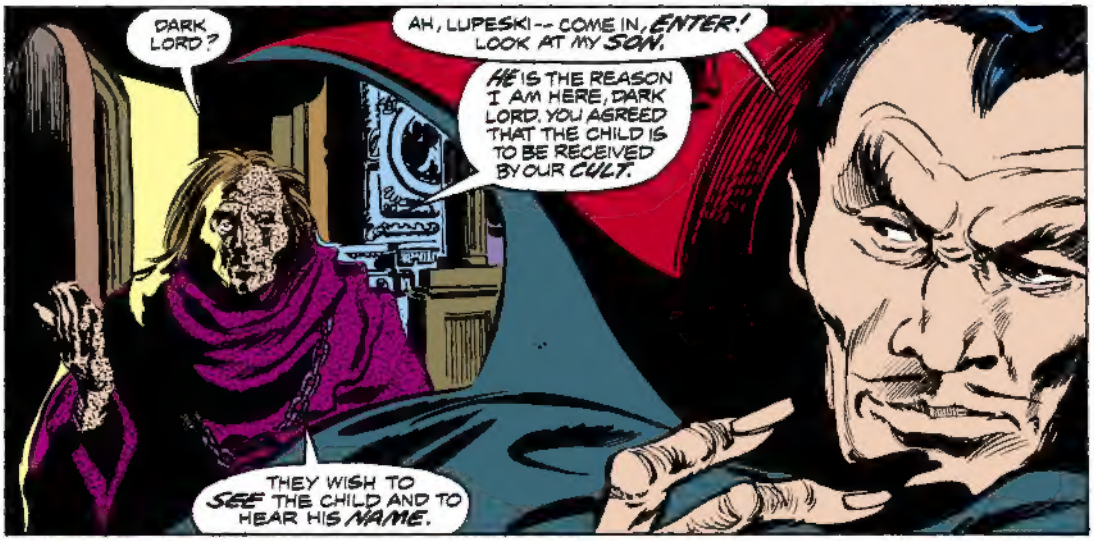

AS YOU ARE THE MOST LOVELY WIFE ANY NOBLEMAN COULD ASK FOR.
IT'S SO STRANGE, DOMINI--TO THINK THAT A VAMPIRE-LORD COULD LOVE A MORTAL WOMAN AND SIRE AN OFF-SPRING.
ONCE I WOULD HAVE CONSIDERED THESE FEATS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT NOW THEY HAVE BOTH COME TRUE.

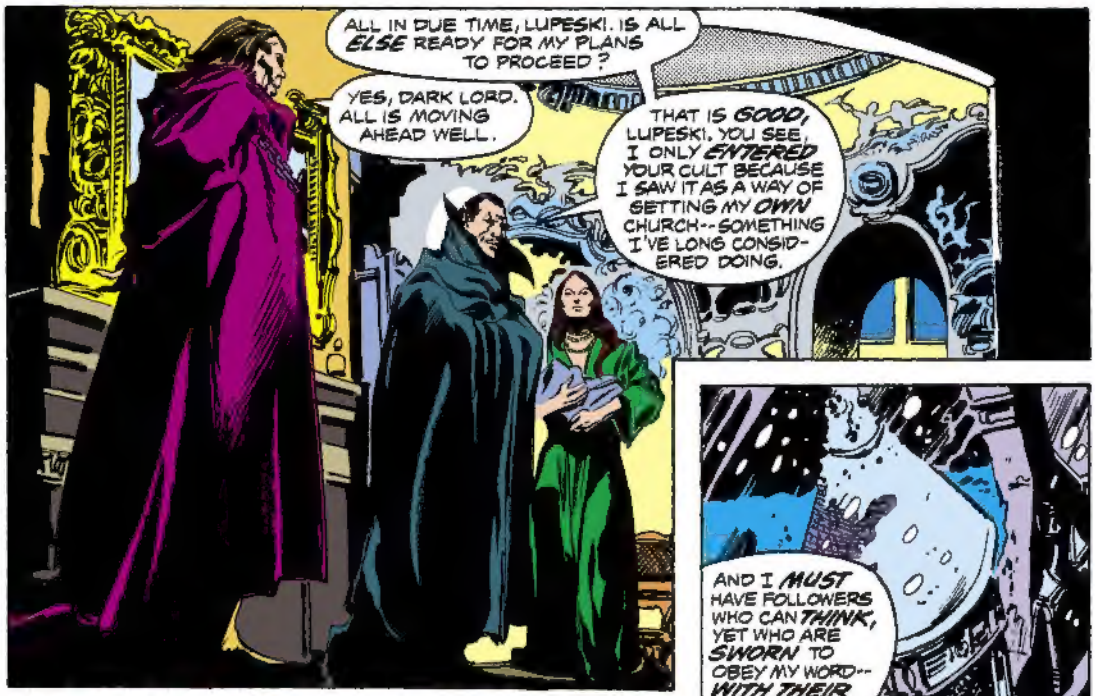

YET, THERE IS SOMETHING THAT STILL PLAGUES ME... SOMETHING THAT IS NAGGING AT ME.
LOOK CLOSELY AT OUR SON AND TELL ME, WHY IS HIS SKIN COLOR SO GOLDEN? WHY?

PERHAPS BECAUSE HE IS A CROSS BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, DRACULA?
NO...
I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT ANSWER, DOMINI.

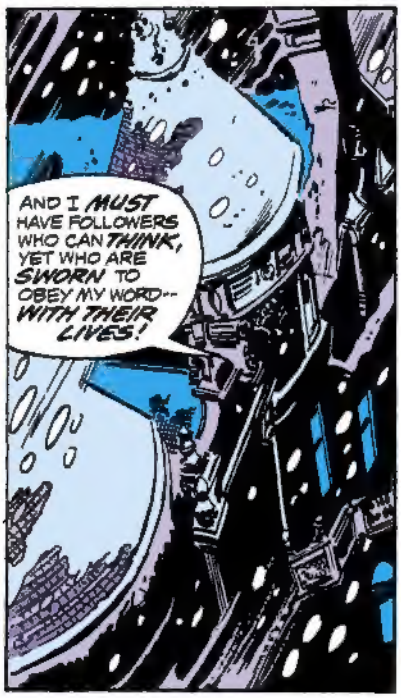
HIS GOLDEN SKIN, HIS BLAZING RED EYES--THEY LEAD TO ONLY ONE OTHER CONCLUSION, BUT THAT IS TOO HORRENDOUS TO EVEN CONSIDER.

IT COULD NOT BE TRUE--IT MUST NOT BE TRUE!
NO! I MUST ERASE THAT THOUGHT FROM MY MIND AND REMEMBER THAT HE IS MY HEIR, AND ONLY THAT IS IMPORTANT.


DARK LORD?
AH, LUPESKI -- COME IN, ENTER! LOOK AT MY SON.
HE IS THE REASON I AM HERE, DARK LORD. YOU AGREED THAT THE CHILD IS TO BE RECEIVED BY OUR CULT.
THEY WISH TO SEE THE CHILD AND TO HEAR HIS NAME.


ALL IN DUE TIME, LUPESKI. IS ALL ELSE READY FOR MY PLANS TO PROCEED?
YES, DARK LORD. ALL IS MOVING AHEAD WELL.
THAT IS GOOD, LUPESKI. YOU SEE, I ONLY ENTERED YOUR CULT BECAUSE I SAW IT AS A WAY OF SETTING MY OWN CHURCH -- SOMETHING I'VE LONG CONSIDERED DOING.

AND IT WAS MUCH BETTER TO HAVE PEOPLE ALREADY FANATICALLY DEDICATED TO ME OF THEIR OWN WILL THAN TO HAVE ME CONTROL THEM THROUGH MY POWERS.
FOR THOSE I CONTROL ARE TOO SLOW IN REACTING TO DANGER. THEY HAVE NO ABILITY TO INITIATE IDEAS OF THEIR OWN.


AND I MUST HAVE FOLLOWERS WHO CAN THINK, YET WHO ARE SWORN TO OBEY MY WORD -- WITH THEIR LIVES!

SLOWLY OUR MEMBERSHIP WILL GROW, AND SOON-- SO VERY SOON, I WILL ACCOMPLISH WHAT I FAILED TO DO IN TRANSYLVANIA.
I WILL RULE AN EMPIRE!!

YOU LOOK FRIGHTENED, LUPESKI? DID YOU TRULY BELIEVE I WAS INTERESTED IN THIS DARK CHURCH FOR SOME RIDICULOUS RELIGIOUS REASON?
NO, LITTLE FOOL--IT IS THROUGH RELIGION THAT ONE MAY CONTROL THE MIND OF A PEOPLE.

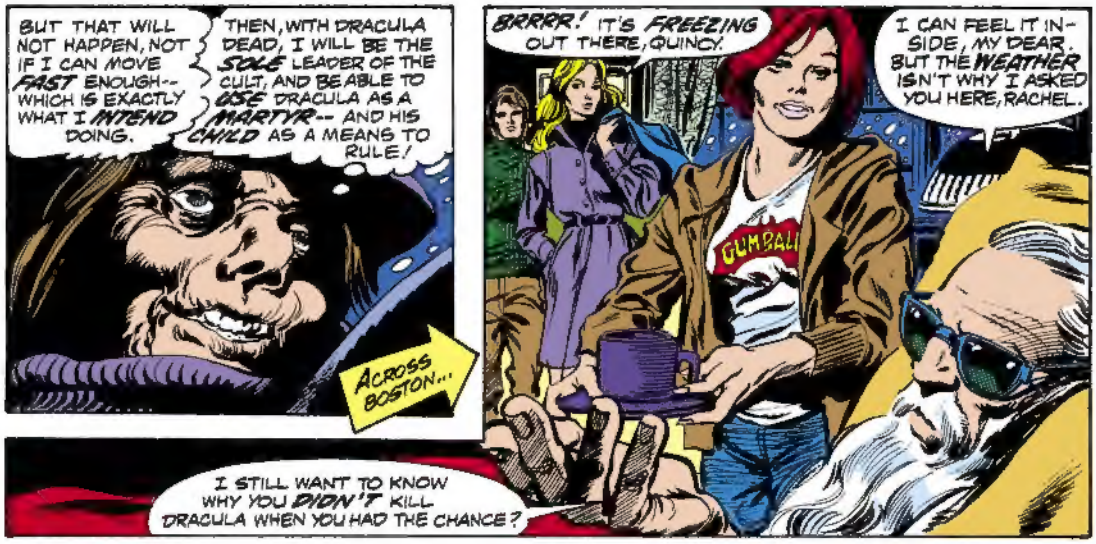
AND IT IS THROUGH THE MIND THAT ONE MAY CONTROL THE FLESH!
IN TRANSYLVANIA I WAS MERELY A COUNT --A NOBLE AMONG OTHERS --BUT HERE, IN THIS COUNTRY, I SHALL BECOME AN EMPEROR!

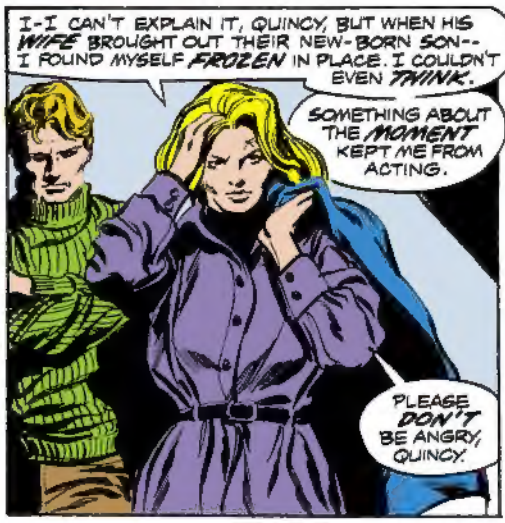
WITH THE POWER TO DISPOSE OF ANY DISSIDENTS WITH A MERE NOD.
WITH THE POWER TO DESTROY ANY WHO DARE INTEREFERE WITH MY PLANS.

MY DEMAND IS ABSOLUTE DOMINATION. I WILL SETTLE FOR NOTHING LESS!
GO NOW, LUPESKI. TELL OUR CULT I WILL JOIN THEM SHORTLY.

DRACULA IS A MADMAN!

HE MUST BE DESTROYED--NOT ONLY SO THAT I MAY RULE MY EVER-GROWING CULT--BUT THAT I MAY LIVE AT ALL!
I AM SURE HE SUSPECTS ME OF TREASON AND WOULD KILL ME IF I WASN'T NEEDED.


BUT THAT WILL NOT HAPPEN, NOT IF I CAN MOVE FAST ENOUGH-- WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT I INTEND DOING.
THEN, WITH DRACULA DEAD, I WILL BE THE SOLE LEADER OF THE CULT, AND BE ABLE TO USE DRACULA AS A MARTYR-- AND HIS CHILD AS A MEANS TO RULE!
ACROSS BOSTON...
BRRRR! IT'S FREEZING OUT THERE, QUINCY.
I CAN FEEL IT INSIDE, MY DEAR. BUT THE WEATHER ISN'T WHY I ASKED YOU HERE, RACHEL.
GUMBALL
I STILL WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU DIDN'T KILL DRACULA WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE?


I-I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT, QUINCY, BUT WHEN HIS WIFE BROUGHT OUT THEIR NEW-BORN SON-- I FOUND MYSELF FROZEN IN PLACE. I COULDN'T EVEN THINK.
SOMETHING ABOUT THE MOMENT KEPT ME FROM ACTING.
PLEASE DON'T BE ANGRY, QUINCY.

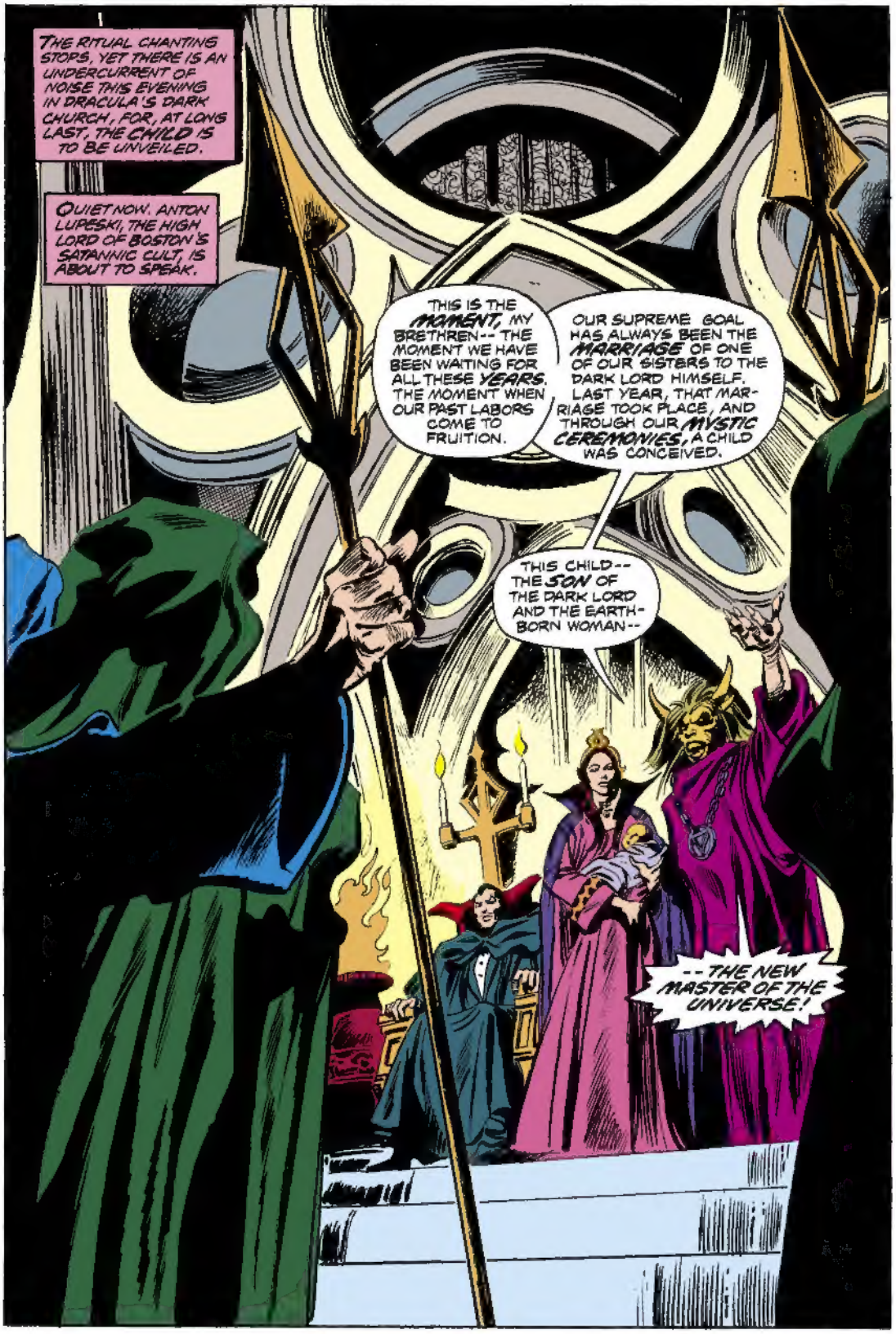
HOW CAN I BE, MY DEAR? I'VE FOUGHT DRACULA MORE THAN ANYONE--AND THERE WERE TIMES I COULD HAVE SLAIN HIM--YET DIDN'T.

I'LL TELL YOU WHY, MR. HARKER. IT'S BECAUSE DRACULA'S SO DREAMY-- EVEN IF HE IS MARRIED.

OUR PROBLEM IS WE HAVEN'T GONE AFTER DRAC WITH ENOUGH VIGOR. I THINK WE'VE PSYCHED OURSELVES INTO BELIEVING HE'S UNSTOPPABLE.
HELL, WE'VE KNOWN WHERE HIS CHURCH HAS BEEN FOR THE PAST MONTH, AND WE HAVEN'T EVEN BURNT IT TO THE GROUND.

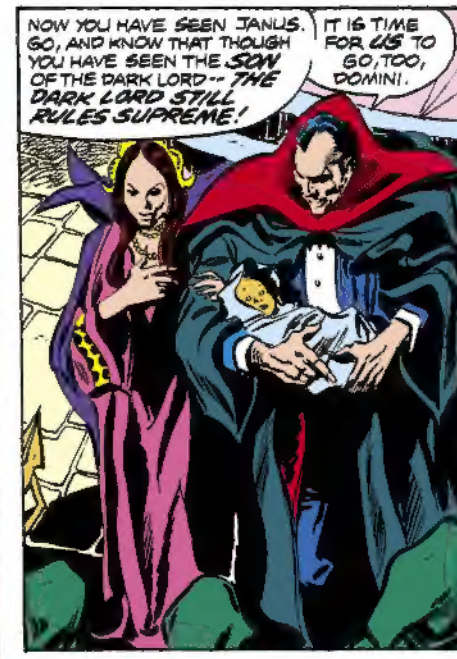
EVER THE OPTIMIST, MR. DRAKE?
BUT, DID YOU CONSIDER THE CITY LAWS AGAINST DOING WHAT YOU SUGGEST? OR EVEN RAIDING HIS CHURCH?
NO, MR. DRAKE. AS ALWAYS, DRACULA HAS MADE SURE HIS CHURCH IS COMPLETELY LEGAL--AND IN THE NAME OF ANTON LUPESKI. IF WE STORMED IT, THEY WOULD SLAP A LAWSUIT ON US FOR BREAKING AND ENTERING.
AND FRANKLY, WE WOULD BE LAUGHED OUT OF COURT FOR SUGGESTING THAT A VAMPIRE OPERATED THERE.

OUR HANDS ARE TIED, MR. DRAKE, BUT NOT VERY TIGHTLY. LISTEN...

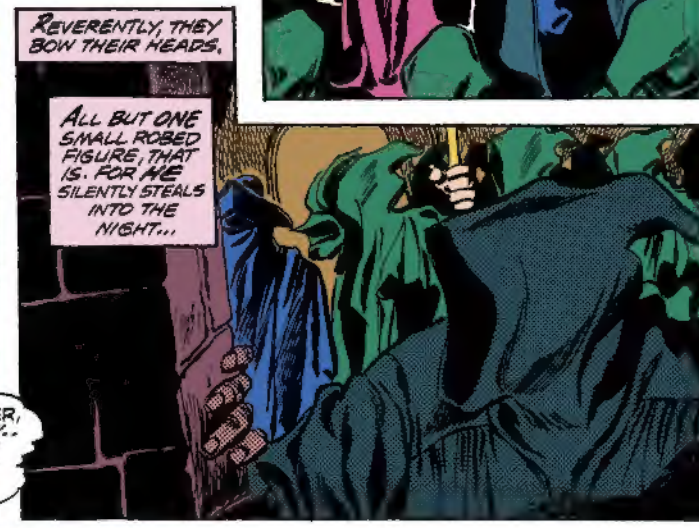

THE RITUAL CHANTING STOPS, YET THERE IS AN UNDERCURRENT OF NOISE THIS EVENING IN DRACULA'S DARK CHURCH, FOR, AT LONG LAST, THE CHILD IS TO BE UNVEILED.
QUIET NOW. ANTON LUPESKI, THE HIGH LORD OF BOSTON'S SATANNIC CULT, IS ABOUT TO SPEAK.
THIS IS THE MOMENT, MY BRETHREN -- THE MOMENT WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR ALL THESE YEARS. THE MOMENT WHEN OUR PAST LABORS COME TO FRUITION.
OUR SUPREME GOAL HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE MARRIAGE OF ONE OF OUR SISTERS TO THE DARK LORD HIMSELF. LAST YEAR, THAT MARRIAGE TOOK PLACE, AND THROUGH OUR MYSTIC CEREMONIES, A CHILD WAS CONCEIVED.
THIS CHILD -- THE SON OF THE DARK LORD AND THE EARTH-BORN WOMAN --
-- THE NEW MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE!

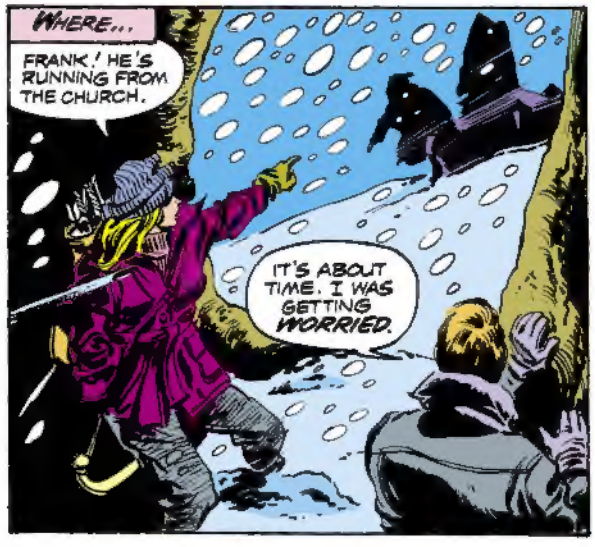
FOR YEARS YOU WORSHIPPED WITH ME, YOUR SUPREME MASTER, BUT NOW OUR ATTENTIONS WILL FOCUS UPON THE CHILD. HE IS YOUR NEW MASTER, HE AND NO OTHER!
SPEAK TO HIM BRETHREN! SHOW HIM YOU ARE LOYAL TO HIS CAUSE!
HE IS THE ONE! HE IS THE ALL! HIM AND NO OTHER SHALL WE OBEY!
THE SNAKE! DOMINI, I SEE HIS GAME NOW... HE SEEKS TO STEAL THE POWER FROM ME -- AND GIVE IT TO MY SON.
BUT I MUST BE THE CENTER OF POWER!
THIS IS THE CHILD WHO SHALL NOW AND FOREVER BE CALLED JANUS!
JANUS -- WHICH MEANS TWO-SIDED! JANUS -- BORN OF MORTAL AND IMMORTAL!
JANUS -- THE GOD OF BEGINNINGS... AND ENDINGS!
JANUS -- HE WHO IN MYTHOLOGY WAS SECOND ONLY TO ZEUS -- THE SUPREME GOD!
JANUS -- WHOSE NAME HAS COME TO MEAN JANUARY -- THE FIRST MONTH OF THE YEAR -- THE FIRST MONTH OF THE NEW CULT WHICH WE ARE TO BECOME! THIS MONTH!
JANUS -- OUR NEW MESSIAH!
NOW IT IS TIME TO STOP HIM -- BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE. STAY HERE, DOMINI.

CEASE THIS PRATTLING NOW! YOUR MASTER--YOUR DARK LORD COMMANDS YOU THUS!
I AM STILL IN COMMAND HERE, LUPESKI. AND ALL OF YOU MUST NEVER FORGET THAT!
THE CHILD IS MINE! HE WILL SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND--BUT ONLY I RULE! ONLY I COMMAND!


NOW YOU HAVE SEEN JANUS. GO, AND KNOW THAT THOUGH YOU HAVE SEEN THE SON OF THE DARK LORD--THE DARK LORD STILL RULES SUPREME!
IT IS TIME FOR US TO GO, TOO, DOMINI.

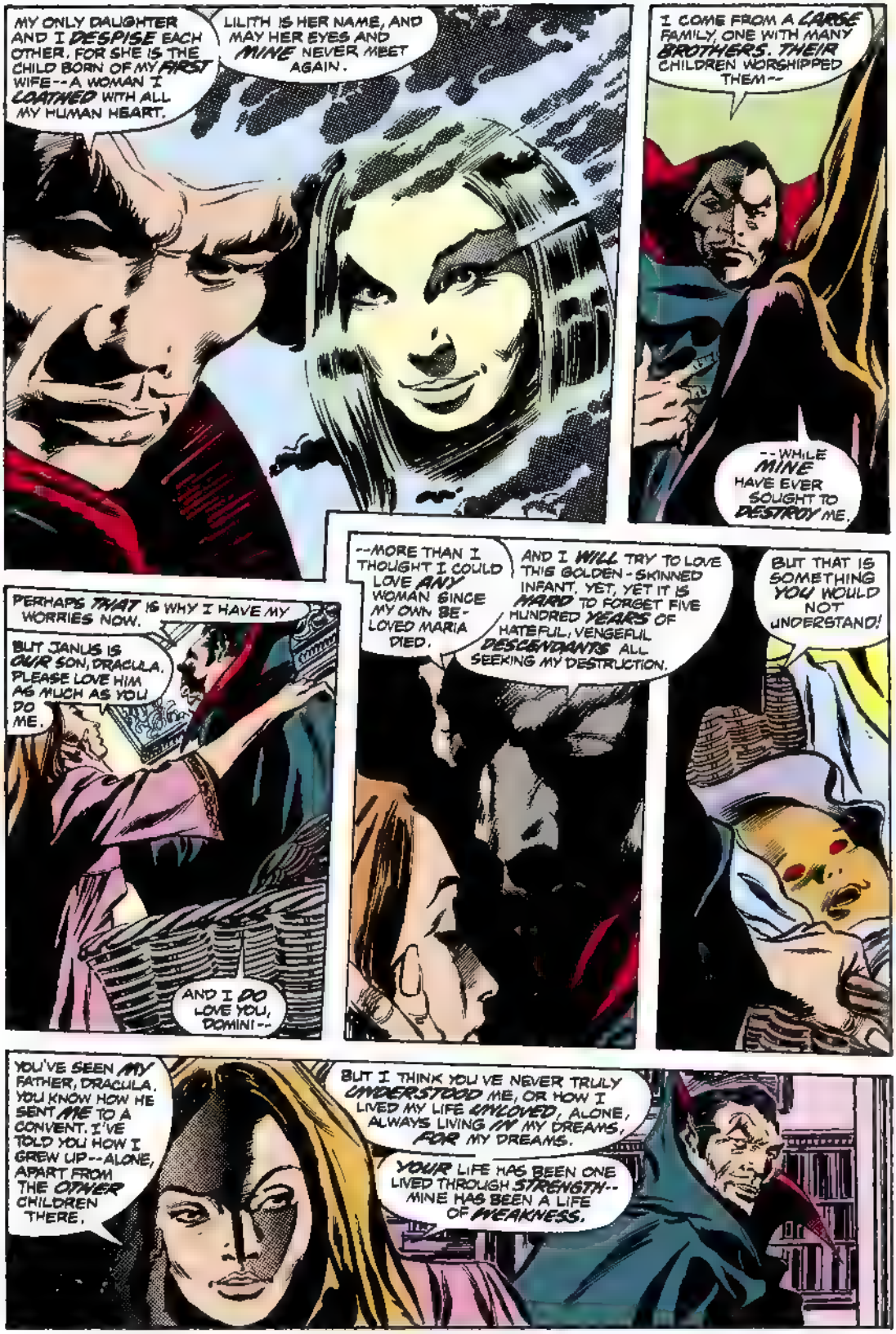
THAT'S RIGHT, DRACULA--GO NOW THAT YOU'VE MADE A FOOL OF ME.
BUT REMEMBER, "DARK LORD"... I SHALL BE THE DEATH OF YOU!

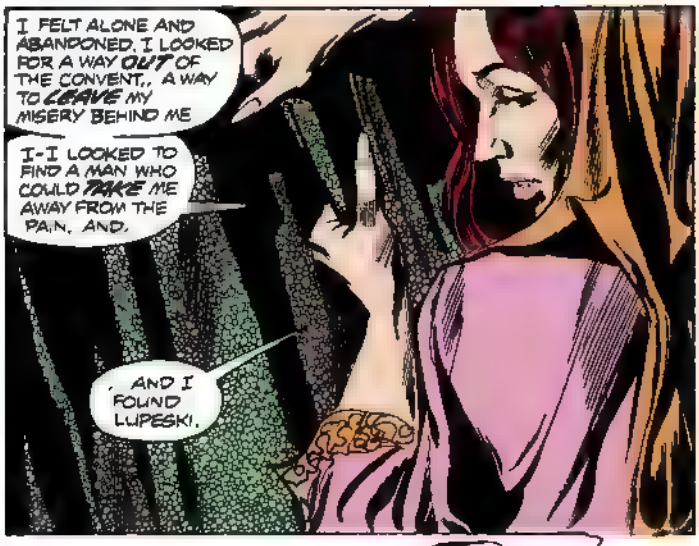

REVERENTLY, THEY BOW THEIR HEADS.
ALL BUT ONE SMALL ROBED FIGURE, THAT IS. FOR HE SILENTLY STEALS INTO THE NIGHT...


WHERE...
FRANK! HE'S RUNNING FROM THE CHURCH.
IT'S ABOUT TIME. I WAS GETTING WORRIED.

EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, HAROLD?
RACHEL, I NEVER WANT TO GO THRU THAT AGAIN--EVER!
BUT I LEARNED SOMETHING--THERE'S A DEFINITE RIFT BETWEEN DRAC AND LUPESKI. AND IT'S SERIOUS!

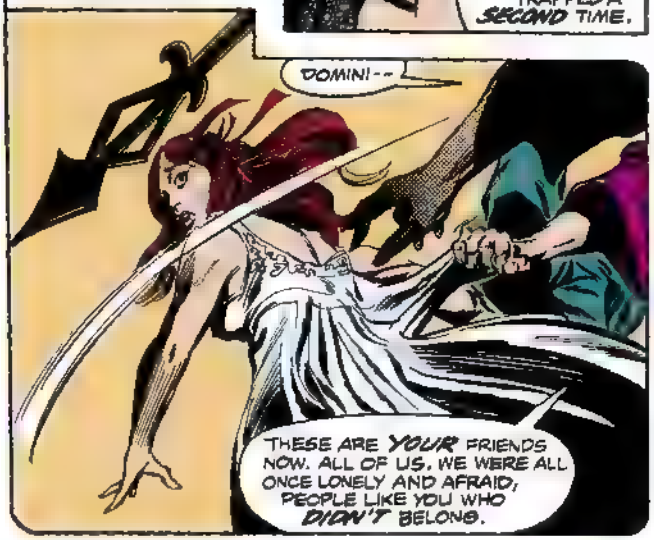
HOW SERIOUS WE WILL LEARN IN TWO MONTHS. BUT FOR NOW, LET US SHIFT OUR SIGHTS ACROSS BOSTON'S SNOW-BOUND HIGHWAYS TO DRACULA AND DOMINI...
THIS WEATHER IS COLD EVEN FOR ME. NEVER HAD WE SUCH WINTERS AS THIS IN TRANSYLVANIA. NEVER DID THE COLD SO FREEZE MY BLOOD.
NEVER DID MY BONES FEEL THIS.. THIS SENSE OF DREAD.
SOMETHING IS HAPPENING OUT THERE, DOMINI. SOMETHING WHICH I FEAR BODES US GREAT ANGUISH!
NOTHING IS WRONG, MY LOVE. WE HAVE EACH OTHER, WE HAVE OUR CHILD. WHAT ELSE IS THERE?
MANY THINGS, MY WIFE. BUT THINGS THAT NEED NOT BE YOUR CONCERN.
BUT, PERHAPS I LET MYSELF WORRY TOO MUCH. PERHAPS I'VE BECOME TOO ACCUSTOMED TO ACCEPTING THE CONSTANT BATTLING I'VE DONE TO ACKNOWLEDGE MOMENTS OF PEACE.
YET, WHEN I LOOK AT YOUNG JANUS, THE FEARS WASH AWAY, AND I SEE MY HOPES AND MY DREAMS.
I'VE ONLY HAD ONE OTHER SON, AND HE IS LONG DEAD. AND THAT FOOL FRANK DRAKE HAS BEEN MY ONLY MALE HEIR... TILL NOW.
I'VE NOT HAD MUCH LUCK WITH MY OFFSPRING, DOMINI.

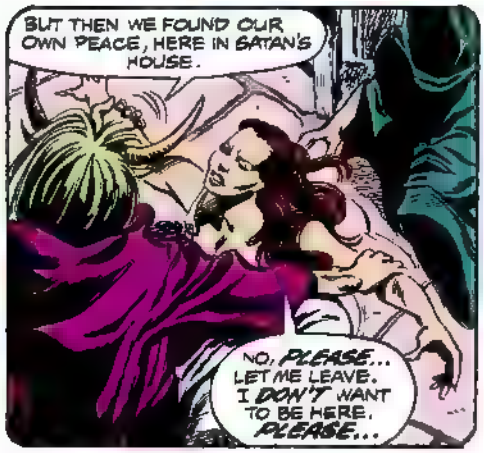

MY ONLY DAUGHTER AND I DESPISE EACH OTHER, FOR SHE IS THE CHILD BORN OF MY FIRST WIFE--A WOMAN I LOATHED WITH ALL MY HUMAN HEART.
LILITH IS HER NAME, AND MAY HER EYES AND MINE NEVER MEET AGAIN.
I COME FROM A LARGE FAMILY, ONE WITH MANY BROTHERS. THEIR CHILDREN WORSHIPPED THEM--
--WHILE MINE HAVE EVER SOUGHT TO DESTROY ME.
PERHAPS THAT IS WHY I HAVE MY WORRIES NOW.
BUT JANUS IS OUR SON, DRACULA. PLEASE LOVE HIM AS MUCH AS YOU DO ME.
AND I DO LOVE YOU, DOMINI--
--MORE THAN I THOUGHT I COULD LOVE ANY WOMAN SINCE MY OWN BE-LOVED MARIA DIED.
AND I WILL TRY TO LOVE THIS GOLDEN-SKINNED INFANT. YET, YET IT IS HARD TO FORGET FIVE HUNDRED YEARS OF HATEFUL, VENGEFUL DESCENDANTS ALL SEEKING MY DESTRUCTION.
BUT THAT IS SOMETHING YOU WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND!
YOU'VE SEEN MY FATHER, DRACULA. YOU KNOW HOW HE SENT ME TO A CONVENT. I'VE TOLD YOU HOW I GREW UP--ALONE, APART FROM THE OTHER CHILDREN THERE.
BUT I THINK YOU'VE NEVER TRULY UNDERSTOOD ME, OR HOW I LIVED MY LIFE UNLOVED, ALONE, ALWAYS LIVING IN MY DREAMS, FOR MY DREAMS.
YOUR LIFE HAS BEEN ONE LIVED THROUGH STRENGTH--MINE HAS BEEN A LIFE OF WEAKNESS.


I FELT ALONE AND ABANDONED. I LOOKED FOR A WAY OUT OF THE CONVENT,, A WAY TO LEAVE MY MISERY BEHIND ME
I-I LOOKED TO FIND A MAN WHO COULD TAKE ME AWAY FROM THE PAIN. AND,
AND I FOUND LUPESKI.

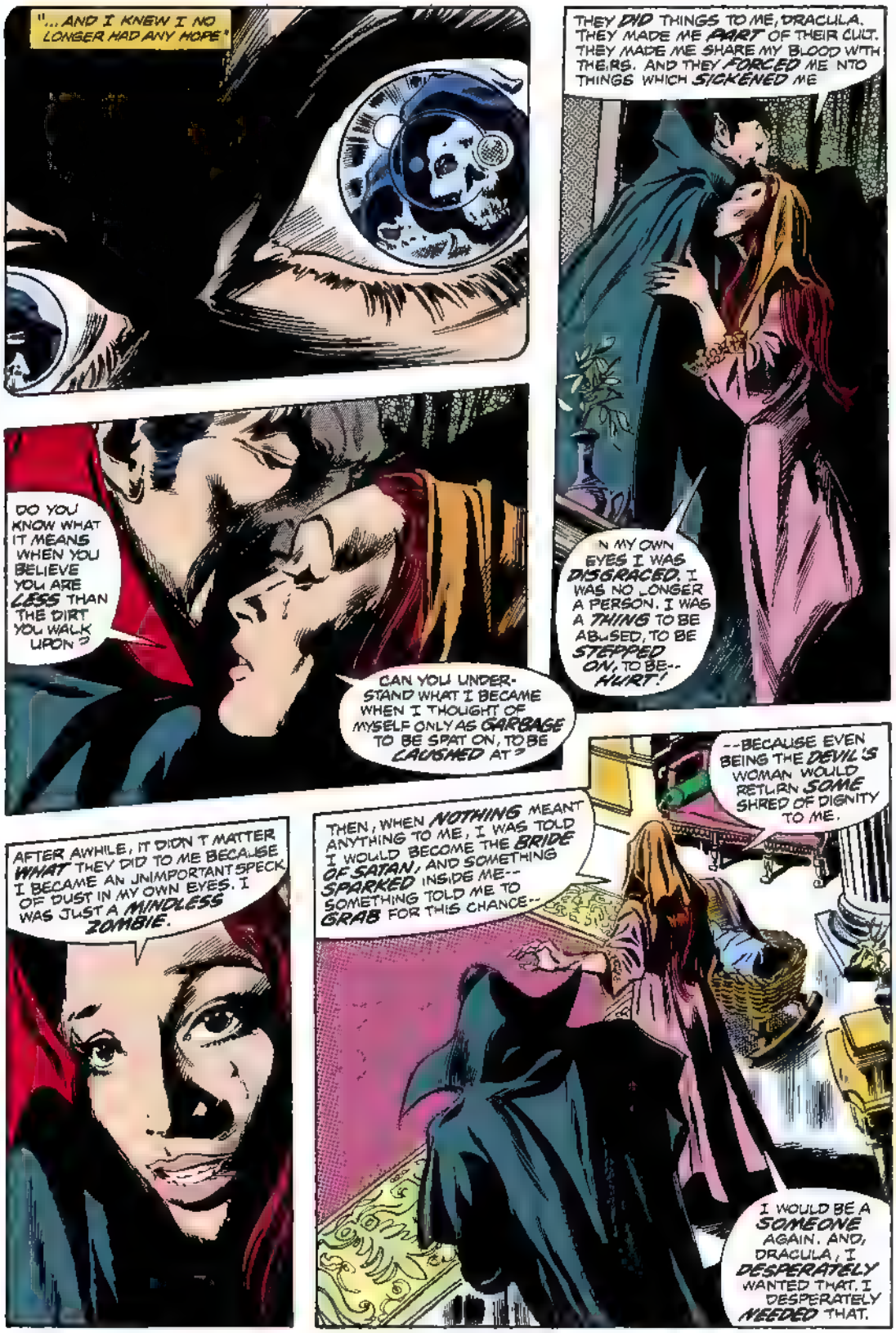
HE BROUGHT ME TO HIS SATAN CULT, HE OFFERED ME A CHANCE TO REBEL AGAINST MY UPBRINGING.
AND, FOOL THAT I WAS, I TOOK HIS HAND AND HIS OFFER, AND I THOROUGHLY BELIEVED EVERY WORD HE TOLD ME.
BY THE TIME I KNEW BETTER, IT WAS TOO LATE, AND I WAS TRAPPED A SECOND TIME.

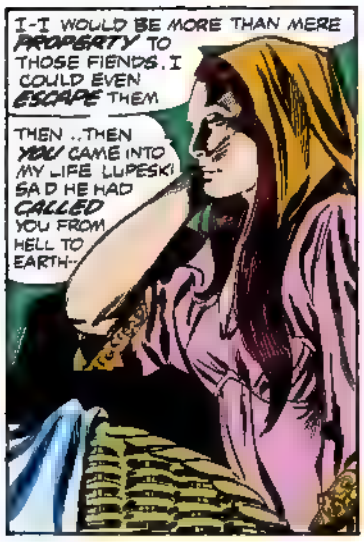
"OH, I FOUGHT HIM, WHEN HE INTRODUCED ME TO HIS DARK CULT, BUT I FOUGHT HALF-HEARTEDLY.
"YOU SEE, THOUGH I DIDN'T WANT WHAT HE WAS OFFERING, I DID WANT OUT FROM WHAT I WAS.

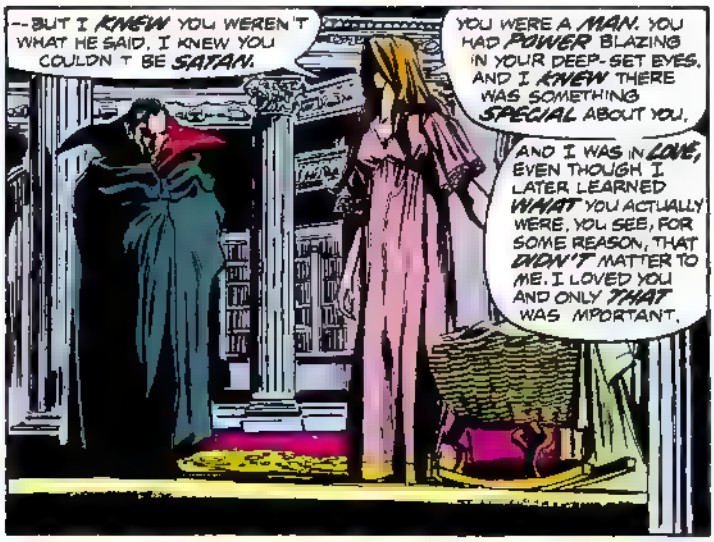

"AND...AND I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE. I WAS THEIRS!"
DOMIN!--
THESE ARE YOUR FRIENDS NOW. ALL OF US. WE WERE ALL ONCE LONELY AND AFRAID, PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHO DIDN'T BELONG.

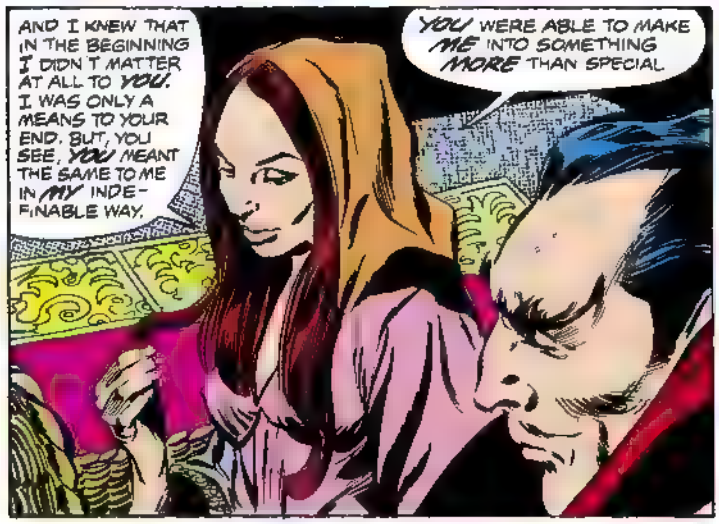

BUT THEN WE FOUND OUR OWN PEACE, HERE IN SATAN'S HOUSE.
NO, PLEASE... LET ME LEAVE. I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE. PLEASE...

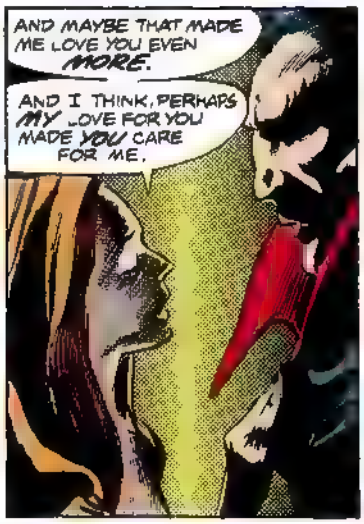
NO, DOMIN!, YOU DO WANT TO STAY. AND YOU WANT TO MEET YOUR FRIENDS.
GO TO THEM, LET THEM WELCOME YOU.
"FRIGHTENED, I TURNED TO THE OTHERS...

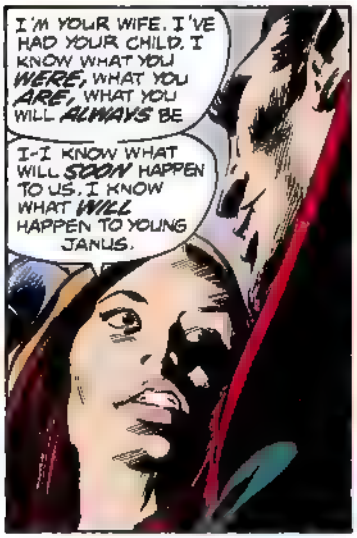

"...AND I KNEW I NO LONGER HAD ANY HOPE"
THEY DID THINGS TO ME, DRACULA. THEY MADE ME PART OF THEIR CULT. THEY MADE ME SHARE MY BLOOD WITH THEIRS. AND THEY FORCED ME INTO THINGS WHICH SICKENED ME
IN MY OWN EYES I WAS DISGRACED. I WAS NO LONGER A PERSON. I WAS A THING TO BE ABUSED, TO BE STEPPED ON, TO BE--HURT!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS WHEN YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE LESS THAN THE DIRT YOU WALK UPON?
CAN YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I BECAME WHEN I THOUGHT OF MYSELF ONLY AS GARBAGE TO BE SPAT ON, TO BE LAUGHED AT?
--BECAUSE EVEN BEING THE DEVIL'S WOMAN WOULD RETURN SOME SHRED OF DIGNITY TO ME.
AFTER AWHILE, IT DIDN'T MATTER WHAT THEY DID TO ME BECAUSE I BECAME AN UNIMPORTANT SPECK OF DUST IN MY OWN EYES. I WAS JUST A MINDLESS ZOMBIE.
THEN, WHEN NOTHING MEANT ANYTHING TO ME, I WAS TOLD I WOULD BECOME THE BRIDE OF SATAN, AND SOMETHING SPARKED INSIDE ME--SOMETHING TOLD ME TO GRAB FOR THIS CHANCE--
I WOULD BE A SOMEONE AGAIN. AND, DRACULA, I DESPERATELY WANTED THAT. I DESPERATELY NEEDED THAT.


I-I WOULD BE MORE THAN MERE PROPERTY TO THOSE FIENDS. I COULD EVEN ESCAPE THEM.
THEN ..THEN YOU CAME INTO MY LIFE LUPESKI SAID HE HAD CALLED YOU FROM HELL TO EARTH--


--BUT I KNEW YOU WEREN'T WHAT HE SAID. I KNEW YOU COULDN'T BE SATAN.
YOU WERE A MAN. YOU HAD POWER BLAZING IN YOUR DEEP-SET EYES. AND I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT YOU.
AND I WAS IN LOVE, EVEN THOUGH I LATER LEARNED WHAT YOU ACTUALLY WERE. YOU SEE, FOR SOME REASON, THAT DIDN'T MATTER TO ME. I LOVED YOU AND ONLY THAT WAS IMPORTANT.

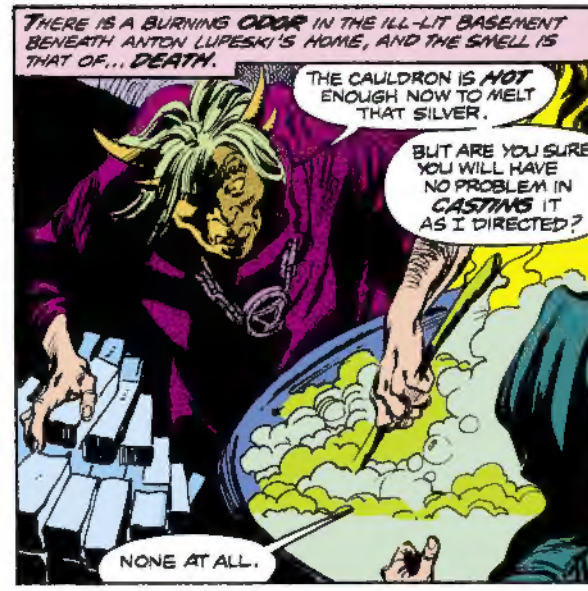

AND I KNEW THAT IN THE BEGINNING I DIDN'T MATTER AT ALL TO YOU. I WAS ONLY A MEANS TO YOUR END. BUT, YOU SEE, YOU MEANT THE SAME TO ME IN MY INDEFINABLE WAY.
YOU WERE ABLE TO MAKE ME INTO SOMETHING MORE THAN SPECIAL


AND MAYBE THAT MADE ME LOVE YOU EVEN MORE.
AND I THINK, PERHAPS MY LOVE FOR YOU MADE YOU CARE FOR ME.


I'M YOUR WIFE. I'VE HAD YOUR CHILD. I KNOW WHAT YOU WERE, WHAT YOU ARE, WHAT YOU WILL ALWAYS BE.
I-I KNOW WHAT WILL SOON HAPPEN TO US. I KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUNG JANUS.

THERE WILL BE PAIN, AND THERE WILL BE TEARS. THERE WILL EVEN BE FIRE BETWEEN US ALL

BUT DRACULA, I LOVE YOU... I LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL!

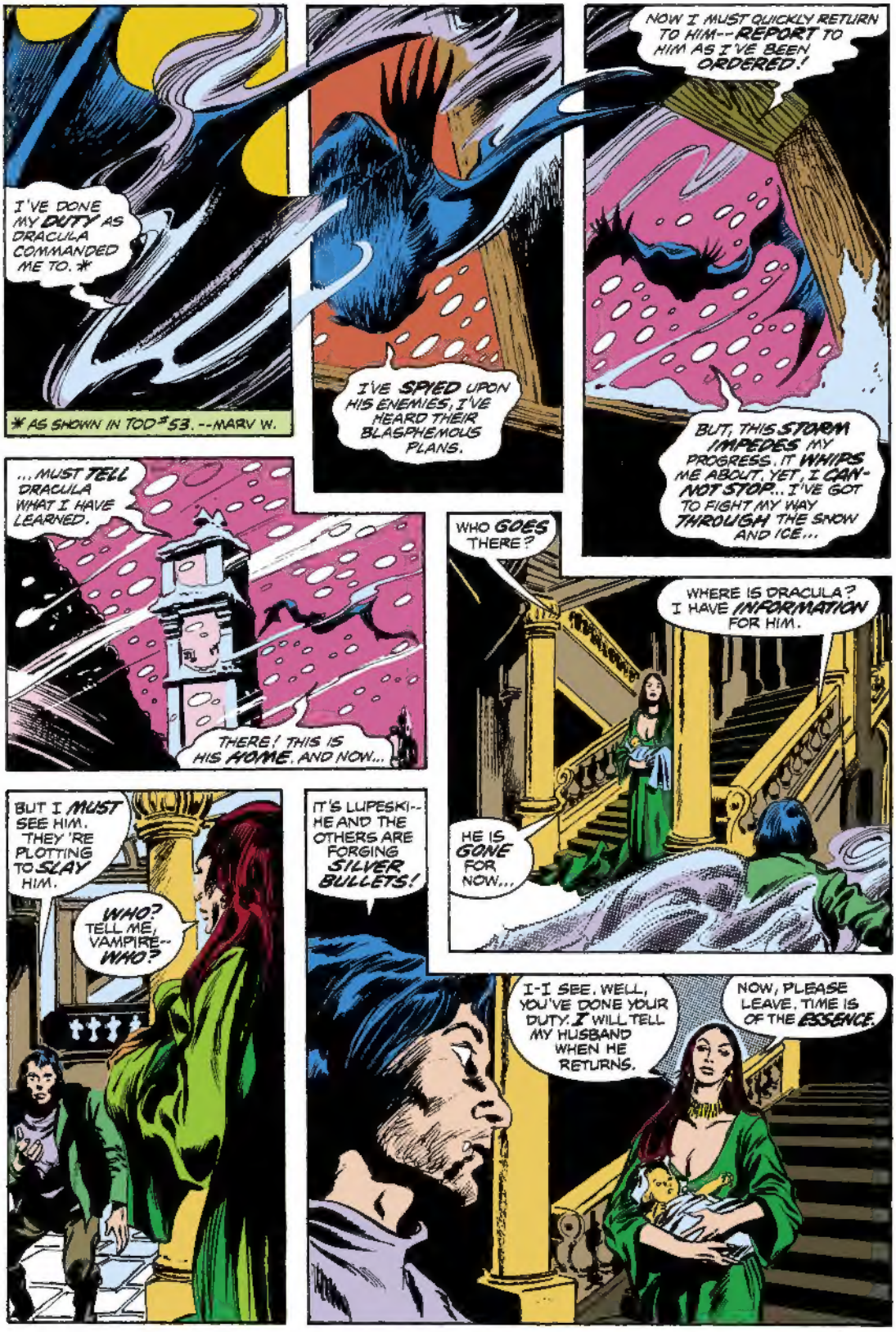

THERE IS A BURNING ODOR IN THE ILL-LIT BASEMENT BENEATH ANTON LUPESKI'S HOME, AND THE SMELL IS THAT OF... DEATH.
THE CAULDRON IS HOT ENOUGH NOW TO MELT THAT SILVER.
BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM IN CASTING IT AS I DIRECTED?
NONE AT ALL.

BY TOMORROW, YOU WILL HAVE THIRTY SILVER BULLETS--EACH MARKED WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.
AND WHEN YOU'VE USED THEM, THE VAMPIRE WILL DIE!

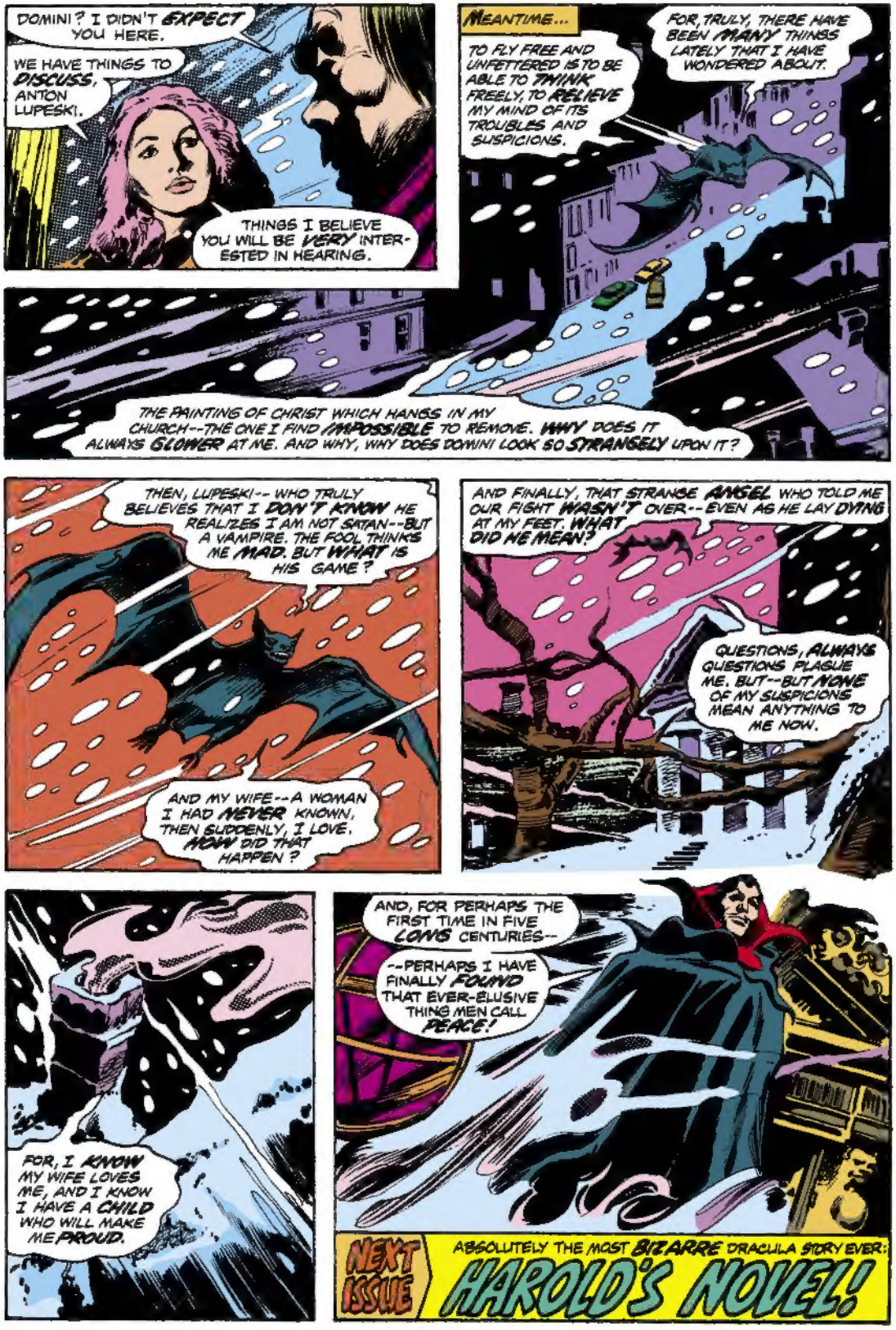
VERY GOOD. NOW I MUST LEAVE AND MEET WITH HARKER AND THE REST.
THEY WILL BE DRACULA'S SLAYERS, WHILE I REAP THE REWARD OF THEIR DEEDS.

ABOVE, IN THE DARK RAFTERS, A QUIET FORM LISTENS INTENTLY...
THE MASTER WAS RIGHT--LUPESKI IS PLOTTING AGAINST HIM.

DRACULA MUST BE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY!


I'VE DONE MY DUTY AS DRACULA COMMANDED ME TO. *
* AS SHOWN IN TOD #53. --MARV W.
I'VE SPIED UPON HIS ENEMIES, I'VE HEARD THEIR BLASPHEMOUS PLANS.
NOW I MUST QUICKLY RETURN TO HIM--REPORT TO HIM AS I'VE BEEN ORDERED!
BUT, THIS STORM IMPEDES MY PROGRESS. IT WHIPS ME ABOUT. YET, I CANNOT STOP... I'VE GOT TO FIGHT MY WAY THROUGH THE SNOW AND ICE...
...MUST TELL DRACULA WHAT I HAVE LEARNED.
THERE! THIS IS HIS HOME. AND NOW...
WHO GOES THERE?
WHERE IS DRACULA? I HAVE INFORMATION FOR HIM.
HE IS GONE FOR NOW...
BUT I MUST SEE HIM. THEY'RE PLOTTING TO SLAY HIM.
WHO? TELL ME, VAMPIRE-- WHO?
IT'S LUPESKI-- HE AND THE OTHERS ARE FORGING SILVER BULLETS!
I-I SEE. WELL, YOU'VE DONE YOUR DUTY. I WILL TELL MY HUSBAND WHEN HE RETURNS.
NOW, PLEASE LEAVE. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

THERE IS THE FLUTTERING SOUND OF WINGS BEATING AGAINST THE ENDLESS BLANKET OF SNOW. THEN, AFTER A LONG, DEEP BREATH, THERE IS NOTHING AS THE VAMPIRE VANISHES INTO THE DISTANCE.
MEANWHILE...
YOU'VE HEARD HIM, JANUS. I GUESS THAT LEAVES ME LITTLE CHOICE NOW. WE'VE GOT A MISSION TO PERFORM.
COME, I'LL BUNDLE YOU UP WARMLY, THEN WE MUST LEAVE.
THE STORM IS UNRELENTING, FORCING ALL NORMAL MODES OF TRANSPORTATION TO A STANDSTILL. BUT DRACULA HAS PREPARED WELL FOR HIS WIFE...
...AND SO, A FEW MINUTES LATER, SIX STRONG HUSKIES CAREFULLY PULL THE WOMAN CALLED DOMINI THROUGH THE BITTERNESS OF THE BOSTON WINTER.
THEY MOVE SLOWLY TO BE SURE OF THEIR PASSENGERS' SAFETY, FOR DRACULA COMMANDED THEM TO MOVE WITH CARE WHEN IT CAME TO HIS WIFE AND CHILD...
...AND DRACULA IS MASTER OF ALL THE MEANER ANIMALS THAT LIVE.
FINALLY...
WE ARE HERE, JANUS.
NOW PRAY, MY SON, THAT HE IS IN.
KNOCK
KNOCK


DOMINI? I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU HERE.
WE HAVE THINGS TO DISCUSS, ANTON LUPESKI.
THINGS I BELIEVE YOU WILL BE VERY INTERESTED IN HEARING.
MEANTIME...
TO FLY FREE AND UNFETTERED IS TO BE ABLE TO THINK FREELY, TO RELIEVE MY MIND OF ITS TROUBLES AND SUSPICIONS.
FOR, TRULY, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY THINGS LATELY THAT I HAVE WONDERED ABOUT.
THE PAINTING OF CHRIST WHICH HANGS IN MY CHURCH--THE ONE I FIND IMPOSSIBLE TO REMOVE. WHY DOES IT ALWAYS GLOWER AT ME. AND WHY, WHY DOES DOMINI LOOK SO STRANGELY UPON IT?
THEN, LUPESKI-- WHO TRULY BELIEVES THAT I DON'T KNOW HE REALIZES I AM NOT SATAN--BUT A VAMPIRE. THE FOOL THINKS ME MAD. BUT WHAT IS HIS GAME?
AND MY WIFE--A WOMAN I HAD NEVER KNOWN, THEN SUDDENLY, I LOVE. HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?
AND FINALLY, THAT STRANGE ANGEL WHO TOLD ME OUR FIGHT WASN'T OVER--EVEN AS HE LAY DYING AT MY FEET. WHAT DID HE MEAN?
QUESTIONS, ALWAYS QUESTIONS PLAGUE ME. BUT--BUT NONE OF MY SUSPICIONS MEAN ANYTHING TO ME NOW.
FOR, I KNOW MY WIFE LOVES ME, AND I KNOW I HAVE A CHILD WHO WILL MAKE ME PROUD.
AND, FOR PERHAPS THE FIRST TIME IN FIVE LONG CENTURIES--
--PERHAPS I HAVE FINALLY FOUND THAT EVER-ELUSIVE THING MEN CALL PEACE!
NEXT ISSUE
ABSOLUTELY THE MOST BIZARRE DRACULA STORY EVER:
HAROLD'S NOVEL!